

CHURCH NEWS

Vol. 64, No. 6

First Church News

First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ

830 Corbin Avenue

New Britain, CT 06052

860-229-3709

www.firstnewbritain.org

JUNE 2016



OFFICE AND GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday 9 am - Noon

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Kendrick Norris, Interim Minister

Sharon Chamberlain, Coordinator of Christian Education

James Gower, Director of Music Ministries

Sarah Flythe, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Please go to our website, www.firstnewbritain.org for staff contact information

Copies of sermons and additional newsletters are available in the information rack outside the church office.

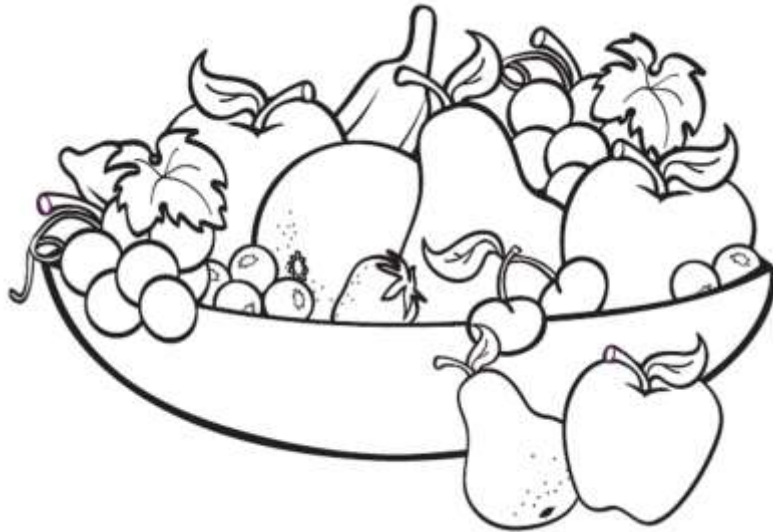


PHOTOS IN GALLERY

If you weren't able to come on Sunday, May 22nd, please stop by the First Church Gallery, located in the Parlor. There are beautiful "night photographs" done by our May / June Artist, photographer, David Culton, Janet's son. Please come enjoy them.

First Church provides worship and education that deepen the understanding and living of the Christian faith to promote spiritual growth, hospitality, and service to others.

GREETINGS FROM MRS. CHAMBERLAIN



**Children's Sunday
"Farm Fresh Fruit"
Sunday, June 12th**

The First Church Children will have the opportunity to conduct most of the Worship Service on June 12th. Don't miss the Children's presentation of "Farm Fresh Fruit". If your child would like to take part in Children's Sunday by doing a reading, ushering, etc. please let me know by June 5th!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



"Under The Big Top!"

Registration forms are now available in the church office for this summer's VBC!



Dad's Day!

Don Delcegno has invited the church school children to join him in preparing and serving a delicious brunch for the men of the church on June 19th, during 2nd hour. Since Sunday School classes will be over, the children will be in the kitchen during the service. If you and/or your child/ren are available to help with "prepping" on the Saturday before, please speak directly to Don.

See you in church,
Sharon Chamberlain, Christian Education Coordinator



FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

We want the world to know about First Church. Please help us. We have contracted with CGI, a marketing firm, to create a professional 60 second video about life at First Church. The video will appear on the Town of Berlin and the New Britain Chamber of Commerce websites. The CGI production team will visit us on Sunday, June 5th and Sunday, June 12th to film us in action. There will be lots of activity those two Sundays: Children's Sunday; Men's Breakfast; welcoming 4 new members; a Baptism; Carillon playing; Church Choir's last Sunday until Fall and more. This is a unique chance to spread the word about our vibrant, loving community. So, let's come out and show our best for the world to see! See you on June 5th and June 12th!



Time To Celebrate!

Here is some very exciting news about several of our young people...

Samantha Arasimowicz, daughter of Ed and Nancy Arasimowicz, granddaughter of Bill and Lynne Furman, *and* our toddler room childcare extraordinaire, is graduating with high honors from Newington High School on June 10th. She has been accepted to Bay Path University and awarded the Founder's Scholarship.

Also, Sammy and her team were awarded the top spot for their 90 second PSA challenge at Expo Fest 2016. This event combines the student film festival and STEM awards.

Jeffrey Bogle, grandson of Walter and Lois MacFarlane, graduated May 6th from Northeastern University, in Boston, with a BA in Sociology.

Jared MacFarlane, grandson of Walter and Lois MacFarlane, graduated May 7th, from UCONN with a BS in Computer Science Engineering.

Sarah Mangan, daughter of Scott and Kristine Mangan, graduated from The Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida, with a BS in Marine Biology. This summer she will be in a research program on the Thimble Islands Archipelago in Branford, CT.

Gabriella Ortega, daughter of Sergio and Deborah Ortega, graduates 5th grade on June 19th. She hopes to attend CREC Medical Professions Academy in the fall of 2016.

Jason Sittambalam, graduated from the Business School at UCONN. He will be attending the University of South Carolina to complete his Master's Degree in Accounting and sit for his CPA. In August of 2017 he will begin working in the "real world" at Deloitte in Boston.

Congratulations everyone! Your First Church family is very proud of you!



UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our church profile has been uploaded on the UCC website and we are now receiving profiles from prospective candidates. We are just now beginning to review the candidates and their profiles.

We as a church, in our focus groups last year, identified growth as one of the most important things to move us forward. During our Search meetings, one of our committee members shared an article in which a settled minister speaks of growth and the responsibility of a pastor as well as that of the congregation. We thought this was an interesting perspective and wanted to share it with all of you. The article states that effective leadership is a great start, but you cannot expect a pastor to grow your church if:

"You're not already consistently, intentionally, and lovingly inviting your friends, neighbors, and family to come – even if you think they'll say No."

"You're not willing to enter into deeper relationships with one another. Just because you've served coffee and pastries alongside each other after church for years doesn't necessarily mean you know each other."

"You're not willing to welcome the new people who come through the doors as they are, not as you want to "help" them be."

"You insist on harping on what the church doesn't have and can't do instead of what God has and can do through us. No church can grow from an attitude of lack."

"You intend to bristle at any suggested change, small or large, because, 'We've always done it this way'."

In summary the article says, "greater numbers don't indicate that a church is effective. Jesus did just fine with only twelve....". We encourage all of us to reflect on these ideas and see where each of us could help in our own way to grow the church.

We invite any who are interested, to meet with a few of our Search Committee members after church on June 5th with any questions or concerns you may have. If interested, please sign up in the church office. We looking forward to speaking with you.

This is an exciting time for all of us!
The Search Committee



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Patty and Peter Gacek and family. Patty's brother, Siegfried Madler passed away this week. Services will be at Saint Mary Margaret Church, May 28th, 10:00 am.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane Sittambalam, who has finished cancer treatment and has begun the healing process. She was in Connecticut for her son's graduation from UCONN, stopped by and looked great. She was very thankful for all our prayers and support. Well wishes can be sent to 1903 South Ocean Blvd, #1002, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Adeline Ruth, as she recovers from some recent health issues. Her address is Jerome Home, room 301, 975 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Kirsty Naples' mom, who is having health issues.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Edith Miller's son, John, who grew up in First Church, as he makes a full recovery from a serious stroke.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the Furman family, as Bill and Lynne's sixteen-year-old great nephew, Ben Guckel, continues to await a heart transplant.

These are opportunities to use our Sunshine Post Office, to send good cheer, see later article. Cards, pens, an address book and a mailbox are set up in the Fireside Room . . . just write one out during Coffee Hour. They are a nice and easy way to send caring thoughts to our church family and are greatly appreciated by, and comforting to, those who receive them.

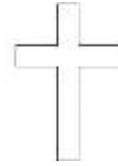


BREAD BAKING THANKS AND EXTRA LOAVES NEEDED

Thank you to AnneMarie Duncan, Lynne Furman, Carolyn McElravey and Lois Zink for baking during the month of May. Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, May 29th, Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, June 5th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, June 12th, Margo Hunt will be baking for Sunday, June 19th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, June 26th Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, July 3rd and Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, July 10th.

Bakers are needed for Sunday, July 17th and all Sundays after. Please sign up, in the Narthex before church or during coffee hour, to bake two welcome breads to be given out to visitors, returning members or those having difficulty in their lives. Any kind of homemade bread is appreciated, from yeast breads to sweet breads to bread from mixes.

We are also asking for some bakers to make some extra loaves to keep in the freezer to have when someone forgets it's their day, a baker is unable to come to church or extra loaves are needed. Just bring in the loaves and place in the marked box in the kitchen freezer. Thank you!



INVITATION TO OUR CHAPEL

Our Chapel is open for a private moment before Sunday's service or during the week. You are invited to come early and take a moment to thank God for a good week or for help with a challenge.



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

For June, we are suggesting that parishioners bring in picnic items like condiments (ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard and relish), pasta and pasta salad mix, juice, sandwich fillings like pb&j and tuna and healthy snacks. As always, any and all donations may be brought in on Sunday or during office hours. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping those in our community.

Thank you to all who brought in donations during the month of May. Our shopping cart is filled with cereal, cereal bars and other items.

~Missions and Congregational Life



HOSPITALITY SUMMER SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, May 29th, there will be a sign-up sheet during coffee hour for members to host a Sunday or two during July and August. Hosting a coffee hour is really very simple. It includes making a few pots of coffee, pouring some juice, and plating some cookies. All supplies will be provided. Please consider signing up. No hosts – no coffee hour. Thank you in advance for your help.

~ Hospitality Committee



CLIPPED COUPONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

The Missions & Congregational Life Working Group will continue to collect coupons for military families to help them provide for their families. We ask that they be already cut out. Please remember to bring in your coupons, drop them off in the basket in the church office and help us continue with this worthwhile venture!



PLEASE USE OUR SUNSHINE POST OFFICE

We have had lots happening in our First Church Family lately. Following the Apostle Paul's call to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep," (Romans 12:15), we have greeting cards for you to write to someone who has been mentioned during our "Prayers of the People" or in "Our First Church Family" or anyone you would like to reach out to. Cards, pens, and an address book are available during Coffee Hour, on a card table in the Fireside Room. Just place your cards in the Sunshine Post Office box and they will be stamped and mailed out on Monday. This is an easy way to show you care. Please challenge yourself to write at least one card a month. As Jesus made it abundantly clear, as we do it for another so we do it for him. ~ Kendrick



PRAYER SHAWLS

Please remember that our prayer shawl ministry is an outreach ministry. Yes, prayer shawls are for those in our congregation who are ill or grieving. And, they are also for people outside our membership. So if you have a family member, a friend, or a co-worker who you think might appreciate a soft, warm symbol of God's love please let me know and I will get you one of our beautiful prayer shawls.

We are in the process of restocking our shawls, so we have some in reserve. If you have time to knit, packages of yarn are available any time in my office. ~ Kendrick



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED TO PROVIDE RIDES TO CHURCH

There are a number of folks in our congregation who periodically need assistance getting to the church on Sundays and I am in the process of assembling a list of names of people willing to provide rides.

If you are willing to help out, please provide your name, email address and phone number to Mike Duncan by email at mdunc58@gmail.com or by leaving this information with the church office.

This is yet another way that you can help make a difference!



FIRST CHURCH T-SHIRTS

First Church T-shirts are still available for church members to wear as they attend church and outside events.

We hope you will proudly wear your "First Church ... On a Mission" shirt and show that we are an active and caring church in our community. Suggested donation to purchase a shirt is \$5.

~Missions & Congregational Life



USHERS AND READERS NEEDED

Would you like to be an Usher and/or Reader? There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex before church and during Coffee hour, in the Fireside Room, after worship. Both Ushers and Readers are needed for June. The training for ushering is easy and can be done before the service. Please pick a date or a whole month to help. We'd love to have you join us! Karen Canora



A FUN TIME ON SNEAKER SUNDAY

In spite of the light drizzle falling on Sunday morning, approx. 20 hearty First Church members met after worship to walk and raise awareness about hunger in our community. Many of us wore our new First Church T-Shirts, which are appropriately printed with "First Church New Britain . . . on a mission."

We then gathered in the Fireside Room to warm up and enjoy a light lunch. Many thanks to all who donated –to date we have raised **\$2,650 for the Friendship Center**. We received two especially generous donations from the Aston Fund and from Eversource.

A special thank you to Glenn Anderson, Joyce Anderson and Kristine Lewko for your work to ensure that the T-Shirts were ready for our special day, and to Ann Duncan, Dot Santora and Joan Cromwell for providing sandwiches and helping out at the luncheon.

Hope to see everyone again next year!!

~Judy Robertson, Chair, Missions and Congregational Life



SOCIAL AND SERVICE PICNIC AND PROJECT

On Wednesday, June 8th at noon, Social and Service will have their annual picnic. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. If you would like to bring a salad or dessert, it would be greatly appreciated. For our service project, we will be assembling “Blessing Bags” with food, toiletries, drinks and other miscellaneous items needed by New Britain’s homeless community.

All church members are welcome to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church office and Narthex on Sundays – we hope you can join us!
Judy Robertson & June McCarthy, Chairs Social & Service

BLESSING BAG PROJECT

Please consider picking up any of the following items or travel size products to donate to our Blessing Bag project, which will help our New Britain homeless community. Gallon size Ziplock-style bags are also needed and coupons will be available during Coffee Hour. There will be a marked collection box for donations.

- Toiletries: Deodorant, toothbrush and paste, floss, soap, wet wipes, shampoo, conditioner, comb, chapstick / lipbalm, lotion and razors (no mouthwash, please)
- Drinks: Juice, water, instant drinks (crystal light, powdered drinks)
- General: Hand warmers, band-aids, socks, gloves, travel tissues and spoons
- Food / Treats (individually wrapped and easy open): Canned food (pull top open), tuna pack, gum, hard candy, mints, granola bars, trail mix, raisins, peanuts and crackers



Fellowship

WOMEN’S GATHERING – SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday morning, June 11th, there will be a half day women’s gathering for physical, spiritual and social renewal.

To get started, there will be a session of gentle chair yoga. This will be followed by a “mini” contemplative retreat, led by the Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey.

“In a world full of noise and spinning all too fast, this retreat nurtures the deepest place within you, where God resides. You will learn how to connect to this place and incorporate contemplative practices in your ordinary life.”

A lunch will be provided, where we will enjoy and nurture our connections to one another. We hope you will put this on your calendar and join us. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church office and Narthex on Sundays. More details will follow.
~Missions & Congregational Life



JULY HYMN SERVICE

Everyone has a favorite hymn, perhaps several. Perhaps, we don't sing that hymn in worship as much as you would like or think we should. If your favorite hymn predates the Pilgrim Hymnal, we might not have sung it for years. Now is your chance to guarantee that you get to sing that hymn that touches your soul so deeply!

On Sunday, July 17th we will have a hymn sing service. Let me know what hymn you would like to have included in the service at least one week in advance; that is, no later than the afternoon of Sunday, July 10th. It can be any hymn: An ancient one, a modern one, a gospel hymn or an ethnic hymn. The diversity of the hymns will make this service very special.

One thing I ask. If you select a hymn for this service please be prepared to say a few words about why it is special for you. Perhaps, it was your mother's favorite. Perhaps, it was played at your parent's wedding. Perhaps, you first heard it at church camp or youth group. Most people have a meaningful story to tell and that makes this service particularly poignant. We will be in the chapel so it will be easier to share. This is an early head's up, so please start imagining what your contribution will be. Thanks for considering taking a small part in what will be a very special worship service.

Hymn books and forms will be available in the church office for you to look through or even sign out and take home. Please fill out the form and put it in the Sunday collection plate or drop it off in my mailbox. Thanks for considering taking a small part in what will be a very special worship service.
Kendrick



PEW CARDS

You will notice green and yellow cards in the pew card holder.

- The green card is for Joys and Concerns that you would like shared during the "Prayers of the People." You can simply list a name—yours, another person's or a family or group – and indicate if you'd like it listed in *Our First Church Family*. If you want, you can add a reason for the concern or for the joy. Please put your card in the offering plate as the offering is taken so, they can be used in today's prayers.
- The yellow one is a card for visitors to fill out if they'd like more information on First Church, to be contacted or be put on our mailing list.



SIGN UP SHEETS

Clip-boards will be in the Narthex before church or in the Fireside Room during coffee hour, with sign-up sheets for the following . . .

- Bread Baking . . . please sign up on any available date, to bake two welcome breads to be given out to visitors or returning members. Any kind of homemade bread is appreciated.
- Ushers and Readers . . . please sign up to read or to usher on select dates or for a whole month.
- Member Meeting with Search Committee . . . any who are interested can meet with a few of our Search Committee members after church on June 5th with any questions or concerns you may have
- Social and Service Picnic . . . please sign up if you are planning to attend on Wednesday, June 8th.
- Women's Gathering . . . please sign up if you are able to attend on Saturday morning, June 11th.
- Summer Coffee Hour . . . sign-up sheets are available during coffee hour for members to host a Sunday or two during July and August.



SUMMER CHANGES

- **Sunday School** . . . Sunday School will end on June 12th. However, during the summer there will be child care in the toddler room and a structured activity for children thru grade 5 in room 5. Please don't be a stranger!
- **Worship in the Chapel** . . . Worship will move to the Chapel, which is air-conditioned, on Sunday, June 26th.
- **Summer Office Hours** . . . Office hours will remain the same during the summer, from 9 am until noon. During the summer, it is always best to call first before coming in. Thank you!



JUNE 2016 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, June 5 Carillon Prelude, Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
 Tuesday, June 7 Tai Chi, meets Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm
 Saturday, June 11 Women's Retreat, 8 am. – 1 pm.
 Sunday, June 12 Men's Breakfast, Children's Sunday, Thailand Offering, Worship in the Sanctuary and 2nd Hour Ice-cream Social
 Sunday, June 19 Happy Father's Day, Worship in the Sanctuary and 2nd Hour Breakfast Celebration
 Monday, June 20 Newsletter Deadline
 Sunday, June 26 Worship moves to the Chapel and a Supervised Activity for Children through Grade 5



SAVE THE DATES

Please join us at First Church for our summer Carillon Concerts, Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, during the month of July! Concerts will be held on July 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. The July 5 concert will be preceded by a pot - luck picnic at 6 pm. More information will follow.



FUNDRAISING HELP

Kirsty Naples currently runs an annual fundraiser at Holmes Elementary school, New Britain, to help provide families with funding to attend city youth sport programs. "Go Tri" is made of 3 parents/teachers, who train to compete in a Half Ironman relay triathlon each June. Anyone interested in donating to this great cause can send a donation check directly to Holmes School PTA or talk to Kirsty for more information. Thanks!



A VERY BELATED HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO . . .

Ann and Ted Duncan, who celebrated their 60th Anniversary on May 12TH

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO . . .

Bill and Lynne Furman

June 6th



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING

- 1 JUSTIN DAVIES
- 3 ROBERT KNAUS
TIMOTHY BELANGER
GEORGE MARTIN
- 7 SERGIO ORTEGA
- 8 MEGAN PERROTTA
SARAH PERROTTA
- 9 RODNEY BAKER
STEVE CSINSI
CATHERINE NAJARIAN
- 10 TYLER COPELAND
JULIE LAVIGNE
- 11 KATE CHAMBERLAIN
PETER KILDUFF
- 13 TED DUNCAN
- 14 ANN LOVE NEWBURY
BETSY ARMITAGE
- 15 PETER BELLIVEAU
- 17 CHARLES TERRIO
- 19 PETER GACEK JR
- 21 CAROLYN McELRAVY
LAURA WILSON
- 28 MATTHEW MICHAUD



JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 ~ Communion Sunday 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 7:00 pm. Alanon	6	7 10 am. – 3 pm. Staff Retreat 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	8 12:00 pm. Social & Service Picnic	9 Literacy Volunteer Party	10	11 8 am. - 1 pm. Women's Retreat
12 ~ Children's Sunday and Thailand Offering 8:45 am. Men's Breakfast 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary 2nd Hour Ice-cream Social 7:00 pm. Alanon	13	14 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	15	16	17	18
19 ~ Father's Day 10:00 am. Last Worship in the Sanctuary 2nd Hour Breakfast Celebration 11:15 am. Council meeting 7:00 pm. Alanon	20 10 am Newsletter Deadline	21 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	22 10-2 RSVP Luncheon	23	24	25
26 10:00 am. Worship moves to the Chapel 7:00 pm. Alanon	27	28 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	29	30		